

Gary Newman comments Broadband Task Force

Comments 10/26/21

I offer my thanks to the Task Force members for their time and dedication in developing this report and recommendations. Having listened in on some of the meetings, I appreciate the transparency of access to those meetings and the documents related to those meetings. I have over 40 years of telecommunications experience in both technical and policy so was able to effectively follow along and have worked in both urban and village areas.

I have some suggestions to the report:

P 22 – mentions a fixed wireless tower – who and where, when will it be functional?

P 23 With reference to GCI's Terra network remote sites powered by diesel, it may be feasible to **integrate renewable power sources such as wind and solar to reduce both the maintenance cost and carbon output** of those sites. **Board policies could encourage this.**

P 25 I completely agree with holding back the Alaska RxR and DNR's policies on discouraging telecom easements. **A state policy on supporting economic development ought to trump deapartments' financial gain. At the same time, there is a need to recognize safety and environmental concerns.** One look at the ROW collapse on fiber run up the haul road a few years ago that the Board looked at would urge better oversight on insuring functional and sustainable installations.

P 34. Please explain the reference to brownfield.

P 39 Crowdsourcing methodologies for determining coverage hasn't been successful. Looking forward to the FCC's DATA program. I live in Fairbanks where there are many coverage holes that aren't easily identified. Institutions who would like to contribute to broadband solutions are discouraged because it's not identifiable. Telecom companies aren't willing to share what they view as proprietary data.

P. 40 Track on-going federal and state projects, Provide info on CAF or other funding already awarded, inventory and status. This is for the Broadband Office, not being asked to be included in the report.

P 45 Add "Transparency" to the framework, not just as mentioned after.

P 49 Workforce development needs to **include apprenticeships.**

It is unclear how the Broadband Office would implement grants when the federal grants are typically put forth by the company applying for the grant.

Thanks again for the work. Long needed, I'm hopeful we are moving significantly forward at last.
